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Thomas Phillips, 1-13.

Author of the History of the LIFE

O F

REGINALD POLE.

By WILLIAM COOPER, A. M.

*Rector of Kirby-Wiske, in Yorkshire, and late
Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.*

*Notat & designat oculis ad cædem unumquemque
nostrum. Nos autem, viri fortes satisfacere Rei-
publicæ videmur, si istius furorem ac tela vit-
mus.*

Cic. in Catilinam.

Y O R K.

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S I R,

THE Christian World must never look for Peace, whilst Men of your Character and Profession arrogantly presume to stand forth, and to relate *as Facts*, what are, in Truth, the most *audacious Falshoods*. It is well known that the Roman Catholic Priests, in general, are extremely ignorant—void of all Principle—and Religious only so far—as may immediately concern their own Private Interest. You, I suppose, have been selected as one of the *Best*—the most *Learned*—the most *Eloquent*—and therefore the *most Proper*—to trick out, in pleasing Colours,

Colours, the Actions of a Queen, whose Memory must ever be held in utter Detestation.—Whether the unheard-of Severities, which so eminently adorned the Pious Reign of the ILLUSTRIOUS MARY, proceeded merely from her own Will, or were effected at the Instigation of her wicked Priests, who were perpetually at her Elbow, prompting her to *such Deeds*, as Humanity cannot reflect upon without a Tear—I will not presume to say. In those Days, your Brethren *were*, and I make not the least Doubt but you *are*, firmly of Opinion, that They whose Principles and Practices tend to Blood and Cruelty, are the most *worthy*, the most *meritorious*, and the most *service-*

serviceable to the Cause of Religion. Serviceable indeed They may be to *your* Cause, by silencing Those who have the Courage to speak against it; but let me plainly tell you, that They know very little either of God or of the Blessed JESUS, who can *Act*, or *Defend* Those who do *Act*, in so vile a Manner,

Altho' you may probably have laboured some *Months*, perhaps some *Years*, in forming and compleating your most *admirable* History; yet, had you allowed yourself one Moment's Time for Reflection, that Moment would have deprived the World of the *great Pleasure* which it has since received, in perusing the Life
of

of Cardinal *Pole*; that Moment would have told you, that in *England* you enjoy the free Exercise of your Religion, unmolested, undisturbed, and therefore, *however great your Zeal*, that you ought not, in Prudence, to broach such *Doctrines*, or to Defend such *Characters*, as may deservedly call down upon you, and your *Adherents*, the Vengeance of the Legislator. But you were prompted and abetted to this great Undertaking by some Rigid Papists, *who promised much*: Their Thanks and Favours have, I doubt not, been conferred upon you in the most ample Manner. This may serve to pamper your Ambition; but *this*, indeed, is a most immaterial Consequence, in Comparison

rison of the Honors which you either *have* received, or may *deservedly* expect to receive. Your Sovereign High Priest the *Mighty Pope*, and the whole Conclave of *Learned Cardinals*, will assuredly transmit their most respectful Thanks to you—acknowledge that you are a *Brave* and *Fearless* Champion—fit for *their* Purpose, Vindictive—Bloody.

Rome ever has been of a most Restless Spirit; she ever has been machinating Horrid Plots, and Dark Contrivances, in order to eradicate Those *Presumptuous Heretics*, who dare to oppose her sacred Will. By her Infernal Emissaries, this Nation has already been on the Brink of
De-

Destruction, Our most Gracious
 King and Parliament narrowly esca-
 ping the *Snare* which was laid for
 Them. That she will renew her
 Attacks, is not to be doubted, and
 if, at any Time, she should prove
 successful, I dare say Mr. *Phillips*
 will act his Part most inimitably! In
 Subtilty, he will resemble *Cardinal*
Pole; in Clemency, *Cardinal Bonner*.

It is a Truth most seriously to be
 lamented, because it does not suffi-
 ciently excite the Attention of the
 Legislator, that this Nation is at pre-
 sent entirely over-run by Men of
 your Sentiments: Men, whose sole
 Employ and Business it is to make
 Commotions, and to raise Disturb-
 ances:

ances: Men, who are perpetually at work, endeavouring to *seduce*, or, as the cant Term is, to *make Profelytes*. This, indeed, sometimes you effect, not thro' Conviction, or Dint of Argument, but by applying certain Sums of Money to the Necessitous, which their *Poverty*, not their *Will*, induces Them to accept. Like Wolves, you have long been prowling about many of the adjacent Parishes in this County, seeking to devour. My Parishioners, indeed, have not had the Favour of a Visit from any of your Party, since they were committed to my Protection, nor would I advise you to attempt it. They look upon you in a *proper Light*: They consider you as *avowed Enemies*

Enemies to the Cause of Christianity, and to the *British* Constitution: They know very well into what a Labyrinth of Folly and Impiety *your Principles* naturally lead you; nor are They unacquainted with the many Forgeries which are so frequently practised in your Church, in Support of Doctrines, which are highly Ridiculous, and eminently Absurd.

The *Jesuits*, by their Intrigues and Cabals, are deprived of their immense Possessions, and banish'd the Kingdoms of *Portugal* and *France*. *Rome*, however, received Them with open Arms, and many Thousands, which she was not able to maintain, now lie skulking in *England*, to the
great

great Prejudice of this Happy Island. I hinted to you before, Sir, that the Privileges which the *Roman Catholics* enjoy, where Protestantism is the established Mode of Worship, are very considerable; but if They do not know how to set a proper Value upon These Privileges: If They will allow their Priests to act in such a Manner as must unavoidably give Offence, not only by publishing the most *enormous Falshoods*, but by endeavouring at the same Time to *De-lude* Those who stand Firm to the present Government; why, under such Circumstances, I hope that the Odds are not very considerable, but that the *Papists* may share that Fate which the *Jesuits* have already met with.

I shall not mispend my Time, by animadverting on any particular Passage or Passages, in your much-talked-of History. The Book itself lies open to the World, and they who read it, cannot but admire that *Force* of Rhetoric, which you so happily display; that *public Notoriety of Facts*, which you so authentically attest; and that *superlative Modesty*, in which you seem infinitely to exceed the Historiographers of every Age and Country. On these *rare Accomplishments* I do most sincerely congratulate you; and I have only to add my Prayers, that your late Production may prove, not only entertaining, but *highly beneficial* to every Protestant, by inducing Our
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